

to take kind of a little bit of a detour through their professional trajectory in the military to come here, work with us, share their level of expertise, and also educate themselves on the internal process we have here.

I was very fortunate to have her as part of my team. I think we should all be proud to know that it is leaders like her who comprise our military.

So, again, thank you, Randi, for what you have done for our country and what you have done to help Alaska.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, according to ProPublica reporting, a Purdue student from China, Zhihao Kong, who goes by the nickname “Moody,” wrote a letter condemning the Chinese Communist Party for killing dissidents in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

We all know the famous image of the man who stood courageously, not in front of one tank—most of the images that ran in U.S. newspapers were of one guy standing in front of a tank. And if you just look at that image, you can assume that the tank commander is some nutjob who decided he was going to torment this kid. But if you actually look at the image, as you can through U.S. photo archives, and you pan back out, that first tank is one tank in a long, long, long, long line of tanks coming that this man stands courageously in front of. It is not one nutjob tank commander looking at this guy in Tiananmen Square; it is an autocratic government that is scared to death of the courage of free people. And that man stood there courageously as the Chinese Communist Party was murdering students in Tiananmen Square.

The Purdue graduate student, Moody, decided to write an open letter about that reminding students in America and around the world of what happened in Tiananmen Square.

Well, guess what happened next. After Moody published his essay, China’s secret police decided to go visit his family and intimidate them so that they might put pressure on him, asking him, commanding him, coercing him, twisting the arms of his parents and loved ones, to stop talking about the truth, about what happened in Tiananmen Square in June of 1989.

When Mr. Kong refused to back down, other Chinese students at Purdue—not Chinese students in Beijing, Chinese graduate students at Purdue—decided that it was their obligation to harass Mr. Kong. They pursued him around campus, and they threatened to report

him to the Chinese Embassy. Think about that for a second.

What do we think about Embassies as for? Two hundred countries around the face of the Earth, and when you are traveling and you have a lost passport or you suffer some, you know, petty crime or you have a family member who has a medical emergency back home, you call up your Embassy for help because you think these are people who love you. You are in a foreign place and you don’t maybe speak the language and the Embassy is there to help you navigate a world where you might not know the language, the laws, or the customs.

What happened in the United States—a freedom-loving place—is that these Chinese students, Chinese nationals here in school at Purdue, decided that they thought it might be their job to contact the Chinese Embassy to tattle on Mr. Kong because the man had the courage to tell the truth. He had spoken online. He had written online. He had been involved in dissident events.

So what happened then, besides his parents being harassed by the Chinese secret police and besides graduate students following him around campus to intimidate him and threaten to report him to the Embassy, WeChat decided that they needed to block and suspend his account to cut off his communications with the outside world.

A few days before he was scheduled to speak at a Zoom commemoration of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the secret police went to visit his parents again, reminding them that they needed to make sure he put an end to his activism—read “truth-telling.”

It is convenient for Americans to look the other way and stay silent in the face of this. We have seen many American professional sports leagues; we have seen Hollywood companies lusting after Chinese middle-class markets; we have seen the Marriott hotel chain agreeing to intimidate their own employees so that their employees didn’t acknowledge what has happened in Hong Kong and the threats currently against Taiwan; we have seen this censorship using economic statecraft from Beijing to intimidate Americans and American companies and American institutions to do their bidding to suppress people who might tell the truth.

It is convenient to stay silent. Many of our institutions have pathetically agreed with Beijing that they would self-censor at Beijing’s and Chairman Xi’s bidding.

Well, guess who didn’t do that. Purdue University decided they were not going to do that.

So there is a lot of bad stuff happening in the world because of the expansionistic desires of the CCP, and we have a lot of Americans and American institutions who are willing to be complicit in the CCP’s desired expansionism, but Purdue didn’t. So we should pause today, just for a minute, and celebrate that good news. We should celebrate that courage.

Mitch Daniels, former Governor of Indiana, current President of Purdue, decided that this was not OK, and it was important to tell the truth about this fact, what had happened, and that this wasn’t OK.

I would like to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today President Daniels’ letter to the Purdue campus 36 hours ago because we need a hell of a lot more truth-telling like this in American life. Here is Mitch Daniels and the Purdue leadership on behalf of not just Purdue but American values:

Dear Purdue students, staff and faculty,

Purdue [has] learned from a national news account last week that one of our students, after speaking out on behalf of freedom and others martyred for advocating for [freedom], was harassed and threatened by other students from his own home country [in this country]. Worse still, [this student’s] family back home, in this case [the home being] China, was visited and threatened by agents of that nation’s secret police.

We regret that we were unaware at the time of these events and [we] had to learn of them from national sources. That reflects the atmosphere of intimidation that we have discovered [surrounding] this specific sort of speech.

Any such intimidation is unacceptable and [it is] unwelcome on our campus. Purdue has punished less personal, direct and threatening conduct. Anyone taking exception to the speech in question had their own right to express their disagreement, but not to engage in the actions of harassment which occurred here. If those students who issued the threats can be identified, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Likewise, any student found to have reported another student to any foreign entity for exercising their freedom of speech or belief will be subject to significant [action].

International students are nothing new at Purdue University, which welcomed its first Asian admittees over a century ago. We are proud that several hundred international students, nearly 200 of them [from China], enrolled [at Purdue] again this fall.

But joining the Purdue community requires acceptance of [our] rules and values, and no value is more central to our institution or to higher education generally than the freedom of inquiry and expression. Those seeking to deny those rights to others, let alone to collude with foreign governments in repressing them, will need to pursue their education elsewhere.

Sincerely,  
Mitch

Chairman Xi is a coward, and he sends his goons to intimidate people for telling the truth. That is who Chairman Xi is. He doesn’t believe in the dignity of people. He doesn’t believe that they are image-bearers of God. He doesn’t believe they have the rights of free speech, religion, press, assembly, and protest. He believes that you must intimidate college students for telling the truth. If they are saying something to a small group of people 6,000 miles away, Chairman Xi is intimidated, and he is scared.

That student told the truth. We should celebrate that student. Mitch Daniels and Purdue University stood up to that kind of intimidation. We should celebrate that because that is what American courage looks like, and we need a whole hell of a lot more of it.

We need a lot more people to look like the Women's Tennis Association, not to look like the NBA.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING GENERAL RAY ODIERNO

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN Raymond Odierno, one of the greatest commanders of his, or any other, generation of American military leaders.

Ray served the Army and the Nation with great distinction. He attended West Point, and following graduation, he went on to serve nearly 40 years in the Army, retiring as a four-star general.

Ray's service took him around the world, from Germany and Albania to Kuwait and Iraq. He reached the heights of his career as the commander of all coalition forces in Iraq and a tenure as the 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ray was an inspirational force to the men and women he commanded and the leaders he advised. His character, professional skills, and abiding love and respect for those around him made him a preeminent soldier. His steadfast loyalty and commitment to his fellow soldiers and veterans was unwavering.

I was privileged to have worked extensively with Ray. His courageous leadership in so many demanding jobs leaves me with great admiration and gratitude.

We were both West Pointers and both had the privilege of serving in the Army, so we shared many things in common.

I recall first meeting Ray in Iraq when he commanded the 4th Infantry Division. I was immediately struck by his presence, his keen insight, and the mutual and profound respect he shared with his troops. His example of selfless service, dedication to his mission and his soldiers, together with his personal integrity and decency, sustained and inspired all who served with him.

I also had the privilege of working closely with him while he served as Chief of Staff of the Army. He proved an innovative and resourceful leader who continued to focus on soldiers and their families as he maintained an Army on the most robust deployment schedule in our lifetime.

Ray's love for his country was surpassed only by his love of family—his wonderful wife Linda and their three children; Tony, Katie, and Mike; and their beautiful grandchildren.

I offer the Odierno family my deepest condolences on his passing and thank them for sharing Ray with us for so many years.

The Odierno family's military tradition runs deep and strong. Ray's father was an Army sergeant in World War II. And his son, retired Army Captain Tony Odierno, also graduated from West Point. Tony served with distinction in Iraq before he was wounded there and came home and found other

ways to serve. I know that legacy of service will continue and manifest itself in many different ways.

Ray Odierno was a powerful, inspiring person. He dedicated his life's work to serving others, and his was a life well-lived. He will be missed by all who have had the privilege to know him and to serve with him.

I am proud to honor the legacy of GEN Ray Odierno, and I know the Members of the Senate will join me in recognizing the incredible contributions he made for our Nation.

And in words familiar to all West Pointers:

And when our work is done,  
Our course on earth is run,  
May it be said, "Well done; be thou at peace."

GEN Raymond Odierno, well done. Be thou at peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, news from this morning that 50 so-called battalion tactical groups have been sent to the Ukraine border by President Vladimir Putin—reports in American newspapers suggest that over the last several days there has been an increased amount of movement in Russian military assets to the Ukraine border.

This is a crisis that is deepening. There remains a diplomatic off-ramp, but that off-ramp only exists if Vladimir Putin sees the United States and its allies, especially those in Europe, united in our desire to support Ukraine in its time of need with the kind of assets they will need to defend themselves, but also with a commitment to levy unprecedented sanctions on Russia, long-lasting, deep sanctions, if they go forward with an incursion deeper into Ukraine than Russia already is.

But, right now, as we speak on the Senate floor, a small handful of Senate Republicans are blocking the key diplomatic personnel that would be able to unite U.S. policy with Europe around Russia's threatened invasion of Ukraine. And so I hear a lot of really strong-sounding press statements from many of my Republican colleagues, often the exact same Republican colleagues who are blocking these nominees, about how Joe Biden needs to stand strong for Ukraine, while, at the same time, they are down here on the floor denying President Biden the personnel that he needs in order to enact a policy that can save Ukraine from disaster—the Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, the U.S.

Representative to the EU, the U.S. Representative to OECD, numerous Ambassadors to European countries, including our Ambassador to France, France being one of the key nations that will help orchestrate a policy of cohesion amongst European nations with respect to the crisis in Ukraine.

And so everybody sees what is going on here. Not all of my Republican colleagues, but a small handful of my Republican colleagues, are setting the President up, raising expectations about what he should be able to do to save Ukraine but then denying him the personnel to get it done.

And I understand that, you know, the refrain from my Republican colleagues is, well, you know, Senator SCHUMER should just file cloture. They know how this works. For cloture, because of our current rules, the whole process takes days. We have pages full of nominees that we have to do. We wouldn't be able to conduct any other business. The Senate has never run like this.

When the Senate has had qualified nominees like Jack Markell, Mark Gitenstein, Denise Bauer in front of it, it has never required days of debate, cloture motions, in order to get key personnel, especially at times of need right now.

I hope we get an agreement to move nominees, but, frankly, time is running short for Ukraine. Time is running short for the Ukrainian people, and my Republican colleagues—the handful that are blocking these nominees—better decide whether they are interested in scoring political points or whether they are interested in standing up for the security of the United States and the security of the Ukrainian people.

REMEMBERING EDITH PRAGUE

Madam President, when they made Edith Prague, who died Thursday at the age of 96, they broke the mold. I am confident of this because in my 48 years on this Earth, I have never, ever met another person like her.

I knew Edith Prague as my colleague in the Connecticut State Senate, where she served from 1994 to 2012, retiring as the oldest member of that chamber at age 86. She was a friend of mine and a mentor. She modeled a form of public service for me that I will be eternally grateful for. There was no one in Connecticut public life as persistent, as dogged, as forceful, as Edith Prague.

She woke up every day thinking about the plight of workers, the poor, and the elderly. She had an acute sense of the injustice done to those who labored in difficult jobs, those making poverty wages, and those people who were living on fixed incomes.

And when she believed that a cause was right, she would not back down. In 1991, Governor Lowell Weicker hired her to be his commissioner of aging, and then, a year later, he fired her because when he told her that she needed to fold her agency into a bigger department to save money, she refused.

When she was elected to the State senate, she was a tireless worker, a